

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Attorney Docket No. 020238

Serial No. 10/069,523

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are pending in the present application, of which claims 10 – 16 have been withdrawn from consideration. It is respectfully submitted that this Request for Reconsideration is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 5, 2004.

As To The Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejection:

claims 1 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ishioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,703,849).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for *a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board with opposing to said conductive member; and means for acquiring each signal appearing at said cells in response to said inspection signal applied to said conductive member.* Independent claim 9 is drawn to a similar embodiment.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied reference of Ishioka et al. fail to disclose or fairly suggest the features of the present claimed invention concerning *a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied*

with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board with opposing to said conductive member.

That is, while the present invention and Ishioka et al. both relate to an inspection apparatus for inspecting a circuit wiring of a circuit board, however, as shown in the attached drawing (Exhibit A), Ishioka et al. discloses a structure in which the inspection unit 1 is disposed on one side of the circuit board 100. This means that the inspection unit 1 of Ishioka et al. includes a sensor unit and conductive member. However, Ishioka et al. fails to disclose that a conductive member is adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of the circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal, and a plurality of cells are adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of the circuit board with opposing to said conductive member, as called for in the present claimed invention and as shown in the example of an embodiment of the present invention in the attached drawing.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown

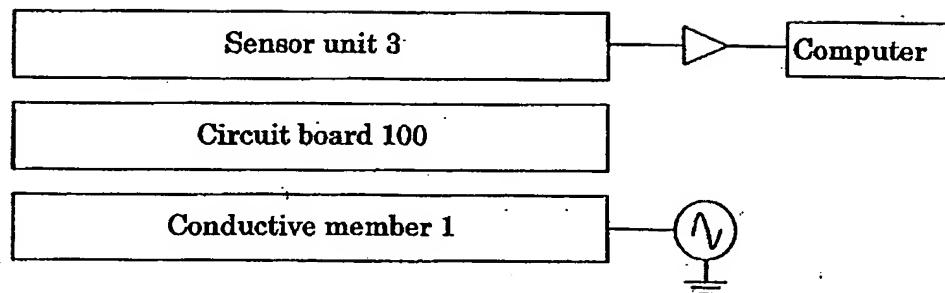
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Attachment: Exhibit A

EXHIBIT A

An Example of the Present Invention



US6,703,849

